THE

Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXI.] HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 6TH MAY, 1905. No. 18

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BIRTH.

On 25th April, at Shanghai, the wife of W. H. JACKSON, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On 27th April, at Shanghai, GEORGE WASHINGTON NÖEL, to NORA MARY SIMPSON.

On 29th April, at the Episcopal Chapel, Macao, by his Lordship the Right Reverend Bishop Dom Joao Paulino d'Azevedo Castro, JERONYMO PITER PEVIER LEITE, of Kobe, to IDA MARIA, youngest daughter of Mr. C. J. GONSALVES, of Hongkong.

DEATHS.

At No. 4, Elliot Crescent, after a brief illness, KATE ISABEL MARGARET, infant daughter of GEORGE PHILIP and MARY LAMMERT.

On 28th April, at Shanghai, HILDA VALERIE STANDRING, aged two months.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 7th April arrived per the s.s. *Malta*, on Thursday, the 4th inst. at daylight.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Kwan Yau so far forgot himself in the Police Court on May 3 as to light up a cigarette while Mr. Hazeland was trying a case. As a reminder of his whereabouts, His Worship sentenced him to fourteen days' imprisonment in default of payment of a fine of $5.

A numerously signed petition has been forwarded to President Roosevelt asking that the American Consul at Foochow, Dr. S. L. Gracey, be retained in his present position. In view of the service Dr. Gracey has already rendered and of the valuable experience he has acquired during his six or seven years' residence there, Foochow Americans desire that there shall be no change.

Charles Smith, an unemployed sailor who has been staying at the Sailors' Home for some weeks past, was charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on May 1st with obtaining drinks by false pretences. Prisoner said to Inspector Collett—"If I could have got away with it, I would have got away with it. You know that. You are a man of the world." His Worship found the defendant guilty and sentenced him to one month's hard labour.

A correspondent writing to us from Saigon by latest mail states that barring the s.s. *Orel*, which put in to replenish her bunkers and stores, none of the Russian fleet called at Saigon. There certainly was a great deal of excitement, our correspondent adds, over the news that the Fleet was expected at Cape St. James and the eventual military preparations made to enforce the port's neutrality; but it all amounted to watching events which did not develop.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* commenting on the probable effect of the presence of the Baltic Fleet on Japanese shipping, points out that the large importation already made of rice and the exceptionally fine local crop make the capture of a few rice cargoes comparatively of small importance; the stoppage of supplies of raw cotton would, however, be more serious as the spinning industry is just now giving excellent results and the number of spindles has been much increased lately.

The *Tientsin Times* of the 8th inst. says:—We learn with some amusement that according to telegrams recently received from Taotai Liu, Consul General to S. Africa, by the Emigration authorities here, that he has not yet left Hongkong for his post. If this is so, then it is clear some one has been telegraphing in his name, and foreign correspondents wiring from there have evidently been equally misled in regard to his arrival. The reason of his tardy departure is not clear, and it is rather surprising he has not been impeached for delaying.

At the Instance of Inspector Reidie of the Sanitary Department, G. de Champeon of the Messageries Maritimes was charged with allowing a smoke nuisance to be created in the harbour by the Company's steamer *To kin* on the 17th ultimo. Mr. Reidie stated, in reply to His Worship, that so far as he knew this was the first company prosecuted under the Ordinance. The representative of the company stated that they tried to abate the nuisance by using Cardiff coal, but sometimes ran short of this His Worship inflicted a fine of $50, and made an order prohibiting a recurrence of the nuisance.

On behalf of the Siamese Government, Chief-Detective Inspector Hanson on April 25th made an application before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court for the extradition of an Indian named K. Rao, late a stationmaster in the employ of the Royal Siamese Railway Department. The application was made under the Fugitive Offenders' Act of 1881, and Rao is "wanted" in Siam to answer the charge of feloniously stealing, taking and carrying away the sum of Ticuls 609, the property of the said Railway Department. After reading papers sent from Siam in connection with the charge, and perusing the evidence adduced, His Worship was satisfied that the depositions showed a strong presumption of the defendant's guilt, and committed him to gaol for fifteen days pending the order of the Governor. Meantime he has the right to apply for *Habeas Corpus*.

A considerable number of Red Cross Russian nurses, captured by the Japanese, arrived at the Hongkong Hotel on May 1st, and are left for Europe by the French mail.

The Director of Public Works in his report says that Chinese Shopkeepers were approached by the Government at the instance of the Director of Public Works to reduce the length and size of their sign-boards, in the main thoroughfares especially, with the happy result that Queen's Road presents quite an improved appearance from the gain in width thus obtained. Moreover the scavenging coolies can better perform their work and waiting rickshas can keep close to the columns instead of obstructing the street traffic and entrances to the side paths. It is hoped this improvement will extend to other streets in town.

Our Shanghai contemporary devoted a leading article to Mr. Burbank of California, the man who is growing seedless apples and hybrid fruits. The *Daily News* remarks:—'The man has come. The food is here. Even the desert will henceforth support a teeming population, for the Californian wonder has tamed the cactus. Its spines are gone. Its woody fibre has been developed into health-giving food, its fruit to a well-flavoured sustenance fit for the support of man or beast." There is only one suggestion we have to make, the addition of an "s." Evidently it is the "dessert" which henceforth has to support a teeming population.

CHINA AND THE MACKAY TREATY.

BRITISH MERCHANTS' APPEAL TO LORD LANSDOWNE.

SHANGHAI, 3rd May.

Seventy leading British merchants have telegraphed to the following effect to Lord Lansdowne, the Foreign Minister:—

"British merchants draw the Government's attention to the fact that China ignores the Mackay Treaty, rendering the same ineffective in most of its essentials. China actively opposes the promised Currency reform, ignores the pledge to make Mining Regulations less hostile to foreign mining enterprise, extends an irregular taxation system in defiance of the Treaty stipulations, and obstructs all efforts to facilitate navigation. We beg the British Government to insist on the Treaty being made immediately operative."

[This telegram, which was drawn up by a committee of leading merchants, was kept for a week at offices of Messrs Brunner, Mond & Co., in order that a number of influential signatures might give full weight to it. Nearly all the British firms seem to have backed it.]

THE MACKAY TREATY IGNORED.

(*Daily Press*, 2nd May.)

Mr. EDWARD S. LITTLE, writing to our Shanghai contemporary, says: "I make here formally the charge against the Chinese Government that it has not only failed to carry out fully any single important clause of the Mackay Treaty, but that China is actively opposing in essential particulars both its spirit and letter." Similar statements in the London *Times* led to interpolations in Parliament, when EARL PERCY stated, according to REUTER, that the Government were not in receipt of information to support such statements. This unfortunate reply has been seized upon as an admission of ignorance. Whether the Government is ignorant, or indifferent, or both—and plenty of China-landers these things do steadfastly assert—Mr. E. S. LITTLE says sufficient to show that the government has no business to be ignorant. If anyone will mention any clause of the famous treaty of 1902-3 that is now actually in full operation, Mr. LITTLE says he will be happy to acknowledge his error. It is scarcely necessary to run through the sixteen clauses and as many sub-sections of the supplementary commercial treaty before replying to such a suggestion. He would be a bold man who would claim that any foreign agreement with China is or ever has been "in full operation." The first article, relating to the obtaining of Drawback Certificates from the Imperial Customs, is the one most nearly approaching the standard of satisfaction. China has certainly taken no steps to "provide a uniform national coinage," and latest reports are that the authorities are strangely reluctant even to think about the promise contained in Article Two. If they are doing anything at all, it must be in deliberate and violent opposition to their pledge, for "coins of all sorts and conditions from some sixty mints are being constantly multiplied and debased, and to such an extent that a financial crisis is one of the probabilities of the future. Instead of one national coinage there are now dozens. The Government is robbing the people and debasing its coinage." With regard to China's solemn engagements in respect of mining rights and regulations, we have written too recently on the subject to warrant repetition; but we may note that Mr. LITTLE is at one with us in declaring that China has taken every step possible to make mining by foreigners impossible. He says: "I have myself seen an official proclamation giving a Chinese company permission to mines but containing a clause that the permit would be forfeited if any foreigners were admitted to the company and forbidding the employment of foreign capital even in the nature of a loan." Regulations were published, and a translation of them was specially made for the "Directory and Chronicle;" but it is unnecessary to say that those regulations were very far from being of a sort "to attract foreign as well as Chinese capital" [*vide* Article Nine]. The pity of it is that should acceptably revised regulations ever be forthcoming, they may be too late. The concluding words of the Artcle clearly show that the new rules will not be retrospective, and in the meantime, sweeping concessions have been granted right and left by the provincial authorities. Mr. LITTLE's view is that comparison of promise and performance in this matter, reveals an insult. "China has gone out of her way to insult the Treaty Powers." By far the greater portion of the treaty is devoted to taxation; and here we cannot do better than to quote Mr. E. S. LITTLE once more. He says:

"All kinds of improvements were promised, Sir James Mackay was confident the Chinese Government meant to institute reforms. I venture to affirm that Chinese taxation is now worse than it has ever been. Since the Mackay Treaty has been signed things have gone from bad to worse, taxation has increased and foreign goods are not respected as they formerly were. Transit passes are often utterly ignored and goods taxed by likin officials quite regardless of the extra payment of the half duty. Employés of British firms are arrested, imprisoned, and fined and redress is difficult or impossible to obtain. British Consular archives, if opened to the public, would disclose many instances in proof of this assertion. Let the Government make the Tientsin Treaty effective and we shall be much better off than now."

All these things are not easily concealed, and we cannot believe the British Cabinet to be so ignorant as, say, EARL PERCY. We cannot think that the word "indifferent" is apt, either; and must fall back upon some theory that China is a political bogie at Downing Street; and that in order to enjoy the peace and quiet of a laissez aller or maskee policy, they are willing to sacrifice their few business compatriots who have been waving the Union Jack for them in these parts.

AUSTRALIAN COTTON.

(*Daily Press*, 3rd May.)

The present position and prospects of cotton cultivation in the Northern Territory of South Australia is the subject of a long report by Mr. JOHN BOTTOMLEY, of Palmerston, for a copy of which we are indebted to the Minister for that Territory. Along with the report appears a coloured map of the world's "cotton belt," which shows large areas on the north and east of the island continent devoted to experimental culture. We fear that the colouring has not been very carefully done, for surely it is incorrect to describe the whole of China, barring a narrow strip bordering on Tibet, as devoted only to "experimental" cotton growing? However, the report is of more importance; and its opening words are well calculated to emphasise the value of the efforts of those who are endeavouring to make a plant of cotton grow where none grew before. At the present day, Mr. BOTTOMLEY reminds us, cotton occupies more attention in the commercial world than any other product. It is certainly now the most important fibre which enters into the commercial life of the textile industry; and there is probably no texture more universally worn than cotton. "So long as its price, relative to that of other fibres, remains as at present, there seems to be no limit to its production and consumption." During recent years consumption has always equalled production, and if one be increasing faster than the other, that one is consumption. Supply will never overtake demand until the production is enormously increased. "Japan consumes practically the whole of the Chinese crop, which amounts to thirty-six million pounds." Obviously it was wrong to indicate China as a merely experimental farm. Southern America, which exports two thirds of its crop, has some millions of bales more to dispose of than it had in 1903. But this increased production of the raw material, supposing that it were likely to continue over several seasons, does not take away the object and occupation of the British Cotton Growing Association. It was not only the temporary shortage of raw cotton that called that body into existence three years ago, but the recognition of the fact that American mills are becoming more numerous, and promising to utilise an ever increasing proportion of the American grown fibre. In these parts of Australia that lie within the cotton belt (roughly forty degrees each side of the equator) we are told that "there is unquestionably a considerable area suitable as regards soil and climate, and large enough to provide for the present requirements of the British cotton industry. Queensland cotton was grown in steadily increasing bulk until the subsidy was withdrawn, and then stopped. There was a temporary revival in 1890-97, due to fresh government inducements; but the real value of the two experiments lay in the proof that marketable cotton could be grown, and in the experience gained as to the most suitable soils. The chief obstacle still in the way of extensive Australian cotton culture is to be found in the restrictions against the importation of cheap labour. Mr. BOTTOMLEY does not, therefore, expect the Queensland farmers under present conditions to regard cotton as more than an adjunct crop, for small five to ten acre plots, unless the Government cares to grant a bonus or to fix a minimum price. The same factors will influence the enterprise in the northern territories where it is now being encouraged, with, in addition, the question of transport. There is here an indigenous cotton which yields, "even in its wild or semi-cultivated state," fibre of a fairly good quality; and he recommends initial experiments with this rather than with foreign varieties. Long stapled varieties of foreign cotton have, however, been successfully acclimatised at Palmerston. Along the northern coast, the Commissioner found a great deal of land "admirably adapted for cotton culture," the conditions being all that could be desired. December, during the summer rains, would be the proper time for planting, the ripening beginning in May and June, when it is always cool and dry up there. The population of this Northern Territory is composed of 900 Europeans and 2,700 Asiatics, mostly employed in mining, pearling, and cattle raising. Whites get a minimum of eight shillings a day, the Asiatics from five to seven shillings. Cheaper labour is necessary. "I therefore respectfully suggest to your Government that the Federal Parliament be asked to sanction the introduction of Indians—fellow-subjects of the Crown—to a portion of the Northern Territory, under such restrictions as are enforced in the importation of coloured labour for pearl-shell fishing." It is quite pathetic to follow Commissioner BOTTOMLEY in his further pleading, that these Indians "could be confined solely to growing cotton and such other tropical products in which it is impossible to employ European labour." Pathetic, because we know how unreasonably deaf to all such guarantees are those afflicted by the bogie of coloured competition. We would greatly like to see such a development take place, and its success (given cheap labour) would be largely assured by the absence of the hurried picking frequently necessary in America, by the absence of insect pests, and by the presence of such an adjacent market for the staple as is Japan, importing £7,000,000 worth annually.

RUSSIAN CREDIT.

(*Daily Press*, 4th May.)

Most people will continue to cling to "the evidence of their senses," and maintain that Japanese credit is superlatively good because the whole world is rushing to buy her paper, and that Russian credit is bad because even with onerous terms Russia is finding difficulty in raising a new loan.

M. ROUTKOWSKY, financial agent of the Russian Government, is a witness whose evidence tends to "make us tired," as the American would say. He alleges that there is a three-year-old English conspiracy to wreck Russian credit, "for political reasons." The immediate criticism that suggests itself is that three years is a very short time to allow the London papers to lower Russia's credit to its present most attenuated form.

"There are millions of families in Europe who have invested the savings of their whole lifetime in Russian securities, and to whom the sale in a panic would mean ruin. It is criminal, says M. ROUTKOWSKY, to attempt to bring ruin to such people by mis-statements and misrepresentations."

As we must admit that we, in common with a great many other journals, have published the statements and representations to which this Russian financier prefixes a "mis," it is due to our journalistic conscience to examine the precise degree of our criminality. We have done our best in the direction, and find that we have little with which to reproach ourselves. It is true we were guilty of scepticism with regard to Russia's gold reserve; and hasten now to express our belief that it does exist. That it happens to be a borrowed one, however, is a fact which, at the risk of further crime, we would point out for the benefit of the "millions of families in Europe." If the resulting panic causes them to sell out at a loss, we cannot help it. Even in that case, we should regard the saying "better late than never" as being applicable. It may be going too far to say that Russia is already insolvent; but we have noticed that in the case of individual examinations in bankruptcy, the evidence is wont to have a retrospective colouring. A London financier makes this handsome admission:—"Given conditions of peace in the Far East, and the necessary social reforms at home, there seems no reason—even making all allowance for war expenditure—why the economic position of Russia should not shortly become such as certainly to cause no apprehensions to holders of the securities of that country." There was always a chance for the scriptural PHARAOH, but he was, it is alleged, subsequently drowned in the Red Sea. The proper circumstances were not "given," which makes all the difference; and up to now, there is a redness about Russia's sea of trouble which does not help us to a greater hope for her. M. ROUTKOWSKY invites us to consider the official figures, assuring us that we will discover in successive Russian Budgets huge surpluses. In the last Russian Budget there is an item of Roubles 14,838,638 without which the expenditure would greatly overshadow the revenue. That item is entered as "From the resources of the Treasury." The Russian Treasury is undoubtedly resourceful, but our English methods of book-keeping would not permit an entry like that. How was that balance drawn; was it borrowed; or was it melted down from the gold bricks now open for public exhibition? M. ROUTKOWSKY points out that the British National Debt is much larger, and that it involves much greater annual expenditure for interest and sinking fund. This drawing of red herrings across the trail cannot revive Russian credit much. The vital difference between the Russian and British debts it that the former is external and the lattes internal. In our case, we owe it to ourselves; it is in the family; and we do nor worry over a good investment. Russia does not worry much either, apparently, leaving that entirely to her foreign creditors. But in the matter of credit, Japan admittedly scores one of her greatest victories over Russia. Her books are open and aboveboard; there are no credit balances "from the resources of the Treasury." We know now that Japan does not need all the money she is borrowing; but owing to the eagerness with which her securities are competed for, and the disappointment shown when there were not enough to go round, her astute officials considered it politic to inspire good feeling by deigning to accept the proffered gold. We read that. "Reuter's Agency is authoritatively informed with reference to the new loan, that it will be the policy of the Japanese Government to do all in their power to release the proceeds of the issue as rapidly as practicable, and, generally, to cause as little inconvenience as possible in the money market. It is well known that the Japanese Government acted in the same manner in the case of the last two loans."

RUSSIA'S DESPERATE GAMBLE.

(*Daily Press*, 5th May.)

The persistent manner in which the Russian Government, during the negotiations which preceded the outbreak of hostilities, worked for a warlike in place of a peaceful solution of the questions at issue has been the subject of much speculation; but recent events may possibly place Russia's action in new and more comprehensible light. The general opinion has been that Russia made the common mistake of underestimating her opponents and that she was persuaded that Great Britain would not adhere to the promised alliance with Japan, should hostilities actually take place. That these views influenced her to a considerable extent is highly probable but events which have since taken place suggest another solution to the problem. It is quite possible that Russia was induced in no small degree to enter upon the war from a consideration of the internal state of the country—much in the same way as the Franco-German war was incurred by Napoleon III. The discontent which culminated in the recent outbreaks had been long existent, and must have been well-known to the Russian Government. When a country is in such a state, a war is sometimes a means of consolidating it and so averting internal disturbance. It at least supplies something for the public mind to dwell upon; and if it is successful at the outset may have the effect of averting revolution. Such was the state of France before the outbreak of the war with Germany, and there is no question that the hope of avoiding internal conflict largely influenced the late Emperor Napoleon in entering upon what proved to be so disastrous a campaign. A resort to such heroic measures is, however, always a very venturesome step; and it demands much more than ordinary statesmanship to estimate what may be the result. If the discontent is only on the surface a war may have the effect of drawing the people together but, on the other hand, if such discontent is deep seated precisely the opposite effect will be produced, especially if the operations in the Field fail at the outset in being successful. Looked at in the light of what has since happened, it is indeed surprising that disturbances in Russia did not arise at a much earlier date. There must all along have been an undercurrent of ill feeling, which cannot fail to have hampered operations to a considerable extent, and the marvel is that with the dissatisfaction generally existing in Russia, there were not outbreaks at an earlier stage. From first to last the war for her was a series of disasters, but she always returned to the fray, perhaps instigated to do so in some degree by the certainty that giving in would be the signal for an outbreak on the part of the people. All along, therefore, it was a case of going "double or quits" in this respect. Every new defeat added to the difficulties, and there can be no doubt that the fall of Port Arthur which would appeal to the popular imagination had the effect of combining all the elements of discontent, and bringing matters to a head in the so-called "strikes." If it was the idea of the Russian Government that a war would enable them to stem the tide of rebellion which their misgovernment had brought about they failed in precisely the same way as many others, who had adopted a similar policy, had failed before them. A successful war with an army returning from victory may be a valuable means of maintaining authority, but an unsuccessful war with continued demands both in money and service on a discontented people is a very different thing; and it is this that Russia has had to face. It may be that the Russian Government was not as well informed of the true state of things in the country as has been assumed. A system of muzzling the Press may prevent unpleasant comment upon the acts of an autocratic Government, but it has also the effect of preventing the authorities from knowing what is really going on. Had the Russian Government been fully aware of the state of feeling in the country it is quite possible that the war with Japan would not have been entered upon—tempting though such a course might appear to be to those in favour of an aggressive policy. It may be doubted whether from the first the mass of the nation were in favour of the war. Certainly for a long time a large majority have been opposed to its continuance; and it is impossible to ignore that this is the state of public feeling which the Russian Government has now to face.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on the 2nd May. Hon. Dr. F. Clark (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice President), Mr. F. J. Badeley, Major Josling, Mr. H. W. Slade, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Dr. Pearse, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, and Mr. W. Bowen Rowlands (Secretary).

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

The PRESIDENT—Gentlemen, before proceeding with the ordinary business of the meeting, I feel quite sure that you would wish me to extend to the two new members a hearty welcome: Major Josling has taken the place of Colonel Webb and Mr. Slade that of Mr. Hewett. We shall derive considerable benefit from their presence on the Board (Applause).

MODIFICATIONS AND EXEMPTIONS.

Applications for modification and exemption from the requirements of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance were dealt with.

A NEW CONTRACTOR.

An application on behalf of Yuen Wo (Contractor) requesting that his name be placed on the list of Authorised Drainage Contractors was granted conditionally.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended the 15th April, death rate per thousand per annum, showed the following figures:—British and foreign civil population, 39.9; previous week, 29.9; corresponding week last year, 15.4. Chinese population, 17.6; previous week, 17.3; corresponding week last year, 24.2.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The return showed that 3,534 houses were limewashed in Central district during the fortnight ended the 25th April.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return for the week ended the 29th April showed that 446, including seventeen infected, were caught in the City of Victoria, and 186, including ten infected, in Kowloon

SUPREME COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR T SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

SUI YUEN FIRM v. H. BROWN.

The Sui Yuen firm, of No. 74, Wanchai Road, contractors, sued H. Brown, trading under the name of H. Brown & Company, the American Bakery, No. 82 and 83, Praya East, for $104.30, balance due for work done and material supplied. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiffs.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, who had been retained for the defence, said he wished to withdraw. Mr. P. W. Goldring said that he also had been instructed to appear for the defence, and asked for an adjournment to bring a witness. This was refused and Mr. Goldring asked leave to withdraw from the case also.

After hearing the evidence His Honour said:—The claim is for $108.30, less $4 said to have been paid on account. The parties agree except in respect of three items, viz., two bread boxes for which the plaintiff charges $52. He said the wood cost $36, and the balance of $16 is for workmanship. He told the Court that the $36 worth of wood was represented by a bill he showed, but unfortunately for him three of the pieces of pine bought, which he says were employed in these boxes, were bought four days after the boxes were delivered. It was, therefore, impossible for him to have put these into the boxes. He, therefore, put into the work five pieces of wood at $4.50 each. That makes $22.50, and adding another $12.50 for workmanship makes it $35, which the defendant is prepared to pay. We come to the question of tressles, and I think the story of the defendant as regards these is the more likely of the two. These were, he said, made out of the very lumber purchased for these particular boxes. I do not allow anything on that account. I do not allow anything for the hard wood, because there is only the plaintiff's word against the defendant's. The claim must, therefore, be reduced to $82.30, with costs.

CANTON NOTES.

[From the *Chung Ngoi San Po.*]

DEVELOPMENTS.

The place named Fong-Chum, near Fati opposite Canton, is regarded as a most suitable place for a commercial centre. Some time ago a well known Chinese merchant named Wong Chui-Ping purchased a large extent of land for the purpose of constructing godowns and wharfs and also some foreign merchants have acquired a large site for building houses, etc. It is reported a foreign civil engineer who has lately arrived from Peking has proposed to construct a large road from Che-mi to Fati occupying about five hundred mau of land, the expense of building the road will be paid by different land owners, who have to pay ten dollars for each mau of land in advance to found a road fund. If the land-owners fail to pay the expense, the company will purchase the land from them at the price of one hundred and twenty taels for every mau. A meeting of land owners, invited by the civil engineer was held in Shameen recently to draft the regulations, but as the regulations are not written in Chinese Mr. Wong-Chui-ping, who is ignorant of English, wants them to be translated in Chinese first, before the final decision can be arrived at. It was proposed to hold another meeting on the 29th April.

VICEROY SHUM ILL.

It is reported that Viceroy Shum seeing that order has been restored in the province of Kwangsi has sent a memorial to the Throne asking to be allowed to resign his viceroyship under the plea of illness.

BAD SILK OUTLOOK.

On account of the continued rain the silk crop has been reported unfavourably. Mulberry leaves which have been greatly damaged by the rain are sold at a price from two dollars to two dollars and fifty cents a catty; and the price of silk-worm eggs is exceedingly high. On account of the heavy outlay many people have not yet commenced to rear silk worms.

AN AFFLUENT EXILE.

Pui-King-fuk, the late Nam-hoi magistrate and well-known squeezer, who has been banished at the request of the viceroy to Chinese Eastern Turkestan, will proceed thither in a few days. Pui has recently received a large sum of money presented by his friends on account of his banishment. His old servants Lui Kam Shan and Li Tsz Ming, who also made a heavy extortion of money during the term of Pui's office have sent him from Shanghai and Ka Ying eight thousand and three thousand dollars respectively.

SHANGHAI-NANKING RAILWAY.

FIRST SOD TURNED.

The *N.-C. Daily News* of April 26 reports: The official sod-cutting ceremony in connection with the Shanghai-Nanking railway line, which should have taken place last June but was postponed because of the illness of H.E. Sheng Kungpao, took place yesterday morning.

At 11 a.m. a company of about seventy to eighty persons assembled at the Shanghai Station where a guard of honour of the newly-enrolled members of the railway police, a force which has been formed by Mr. Shen Tun-ho, was drawn up on the platform. The guard presented a very smart appearance. The company proceeded by special train down the railway in the Soochow direction to a spot on the side of the new railway where a matshed had been erected. Those present included His Excellency Sheng Kung-pao, Director-General of the Imperial Chinese Railways, Lord Li, Assistant Director-General, Messrs H. E. R Hunter, Manager Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, H. Keswick, Special Representative of the British and Chinese Corporation, Limited, Weng Chen-sun, Chief Cashier of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, Hsü Siao-chung, Assistant Director of the Land Purchasing Office, and the Paoshan magistrate. The Board of Commissioners of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway was represented by Messrs. David Landale (Chairman), A H. Collinson, M. Inst. C. E., (Engineer-in-chief) Chen Oi-ting, Shen Tun-ho, and E. Morriss (Secretary.) There were also present Messrs E. J. Dunstan, Locomotive Superintendent W. G. Eves, Executive Engineer, F. C. Moule, Storekeeper, etc.

The proceedings were opened by the Engineer-in-Chief, who addressed the company as follows:—

Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—You have been kind enough to come here to-day in very bad weather (at rather short notice I am afraid) to witness in the East an old Western-world ceremony, the formal turning of the first sod of a railway which his Excellency Sheng Kung-pao, Director-General of the Imperial Chinese Railway Administration kindly consented to perform on the 17th day of the 5th moon of last Chinese Year (corresponding to the 30th June, 1904, of the Western calendar), but which, owing to the very regrettable and lengthy illness of his Excellency has had to be postponed until to-day which, I believe, is the first occasion his Excellency has left his house since his illness, and I am sure you will all unite with me in congratulating him on his recovery and return to active office.

Although construction work has been in active progress for some months, the ceremony which his Excellency is about to perform may be regarded as the official commencement of the construction for the Imperial Chinese Railway Administration of a system of railways by the British and Chinese Corporation, Limited, a British Company, whose interests are so ably represented locally by their joint agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and in particular of the railway forming part of their system from Shanghai to Nanking, which, I firmly believe, will become one of the most important and profitable railways in China, if not in the world.

Everything must have a beginning, and trifling though the actual ceremony which you are about to witness may appear, I can assure you we engineers regard its performance with very great respect and reverence because, no matter how many delays and postponements have prefaced its accomplishments, once done it remains to us as a matter of honour, of "face" in fact, that the work must continuously proceed to fulfilment, to completion, and there must be no further delays or postponements.

You are all of you familiar with the history of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, the conception of which was, I believe, due to the pioneer railway engineer of China, the late Gabriel James Morrison, M. Inst. C. E., whose recent death we all greatly deplore, and no one more so than myself; the construction of this railway had been, I know, his life's ambition.

I have not been long enough resident in China to venture opinions on its past history, but this I will say; to-day will mark an epoch in the future history of China, of Shanghai, Nanking, Soochow, the capital of the province of Kiangsu, and of the whole Valley of the Yangtze.

Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer, but will now ask Mr. Henry Keswick, the Special Representative of the British and Chinese Corporation, Limited, to initiate his Excellency into the mysteries of the ceremony, and to present him with the spade necessary for its accomplishment.

Mr. Keswick in a few well-chosen words then handed a spade to his Excellency, who dug the sod and tipped it into the new bank.

His Excellency returned his thanks to Mr. Keswick for the kind words he had used, in a brief speech. He hoped that Mr. Keswick would cable to the Corporation in London to the effect that he had performed the formal ceremony, that he wished the railway every good wish, and hoped that it would work mutually for the benefit of both Chinese and foreigners.

The company then returned to the station, where refreshments were served and a few congratulatory speeches delivered. Mr. Henry Keswick proposed the health of the railway and his Excellency Sheng also made a few remarks. Mr. Hunter, Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, proposed the health of his Excellency the Director-General which was heartily drunk by the assembled company.

FOOCHOW NATIVE CUSTOMS.

Customs Commissioner E. B. Drew at Foochow reported to his Chief as follows, on 31st May 1904:—

On the 13th April, 1903, I handed to you the Native Customs statistics of trade for the 28th year of Kuang Hsu. I have now the honour to furnish similar statistics for the 29th year of Kuang Hsu—corresponding pretty nearly to 1903.—These statistics are given in nine sections, or chapters, as follows:—Imports and exports at the Chief Custom House, at Shui-t'ing, at Chou-t'ou, at Hsin-chiang, at Min an, at Kuan-t'ou, at Wu-lung-chiang and at Tung-t'ai. Section IX.—Total Value of Goods imported and exported at all Stations.

In each section the Imports and Exports are shown separately; and the quantity and value of each article are given.

The situation, etc., at the different collecting stations are as follows:—

Chief Office.—On island, near the Hsin Kuan. Most of its collection is derived from the coats and inter-provincial trade—not the minor local riverine trade.

Shui-t'ing.—A department of the Chief Office.

Chou-t'ou.—On the north side of River Min, opposite the Chief Office. Collects on the local trade between the Chinese city and the surrounding country reached by river.

Hsin-chiang.—Similar in situation, etc., to Chou-t'ou.

Min-an (or Min-ngan).—In the narrow pass through which the Min flows, a few miles below Pagoda Anchorage. All trade between the Min Valley and the outside world, far or near, passes Min-an. But few goods are landed there.

Kuan-t'ou.—A busy little town on the north, or left, bank of the Min, some 10 miles below the Min-an Pass and station of that name. It is situated just within the Kimpai Pass, and

affords a favourable and convenient anchorage for all junks—whether those engaged in the local distribution traffic about the coast near the mouth of the Min or the larger sea-going vessels. It is merely a distributing centre.

Wu-lung-chiang.—Situated about 5 miles above Pagoda Anchorage, commanding the local traffic into and out from the Yung-foo and other small river valleys—rural districts—south of the Min (*i.e.*, "back of" the island of Nan-t'ai).

Tung-t'ai.—Situated near the seacoast at the mouth of the river whose banks and branch valleys constitute Lien-kiang-hsien. The Tung-t'ai station controls all the trade going into the busy town of Lien-kiang and its dependencies, and the Export trade out of that place. Lien-kiang has a considerable trade by small craft to and from Foochow. Its river enters the sea, say, 10 miles north of the Min, and here is the Tung t'ai station.

The value of all the trade—taking local and distant together—which has come within the cognizance of the Min Hai Ch'ang Kuan (stations included) during the 29th Kuang Hsu is shown by Section IX of these Returns to be somewhat over Hk. Tls. 14,000,000.

It is interesting to get at the value of the trade with other parts of China, more or less distant, as distinguished from the merely riverine trade. The following calculation enables us to do this roughly:—

	Hk. Tls.
The total value of all the trade is	14,058,406
Throw out from this Min-ngan's trade, because it is included in the trade of either the Head Office or Chou-t'ou or Hsin-chiang (Min-ngan being only a place of transit)	809,428
Remainder Hk. Tls.	13,248,978

Of this total, the following is riverine trade, viz.:—

	Hk. Tls.
Chou-t'ou	1,335,344
Hsin-chiang	156,019
Kuan-t'ou exports	134,957
Wu-lung-chiang	130,895
Tung-t'ai imports	40,658
Total Hk. Tls.	1,797,873

What remains is the non-riverine trade, viz. Hk. Tls.	11,451,105

What proportion of this non-riverine trade consists of imports and what proportion is exports?

The actual value of the imports (non-riverine) is:—

	Hk. Tls.
Head Office	2,322,266
Shui-t'ing	61,278
Kuan-t'ou	750,629
Total imports Hk. Tls.	3,134,173

And the actual value of the exports (non-riverine) is:—

	Hk. Tls.
Head Office	7,693,112
Shui-t'ing	610,421
Tung-t'ai	13,399
Total exports Hk. Tls.	8,316,932

Coming now to special articles, we find that the chief ones are as follows:—

Imports (Chief Office, Shui-t'ing, and Kuan-t'ou tables):—

	Hk. Tls.	[1902]
Native Cloth	493,514	[49,658]
Salt Fish	309,623	[12,394]
Bean Oil	358,254	
Tea Oil	114,914	
Wheat	484,903	[143,008]
Beans	327,395	[175,097]
Beancake	327,917	[5,902]

Other important articles are Raw Cotton, Dates, Cuttle-fish, Hemp, Lily Flowers, Melon Seeds, Samshu, Shrimp Sauce, and Vermicelli.

The principal exports have been as follows (Head Office, Shui-t'ing, and Tung-t'ai together):—

	Hk. Tls.	
Abacuses	494,238	
Bamboo Shoots	204,289	[441,583]
Bamboo Split	25,780	[10,644]
Chinaware, Coarse	140,823	
Lampblack	46,979	[8,479]
Olives, fresh and salted	29,364	[47,137]
Oranges, fresh and preserved	17,855	[70,231]
Paper, 1st quality	489,804	[172,520]
Paper, 2nd quality	2,251,792	[227,818]
Paper, Joss	31,286	[370,848]
Planks, Soft-wood	90,032	[10,230]
Planks, Coffin	123,006	[17,717]
Poles	4,024,903	[675,908]
Trunks, leather	24,325	

It is interesting to note how very large a share of the junk exports of this region consist of wood and bamboo and their produots (including paper).

The total revenue, Hk. Tls. 220,488, bears to the total value of the trade, Hk. Tls. 14,058,406, the proportion of about 1½ per cent.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF CHINA, LTD.

The twelfth annual report of the Mercantile Bank of China, Limited, the shareholders of which met on April 12th, was as follows:—

The Directors beg to submit to the shareholders of the Bank the general balance sheet and statement of profit and loss account for the year ending 31st December, 1904.

The net profits for the year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, and including £14,551. 18s. 6d. brought forward from last account, amount to £75,227. 1s. 0d. Of this sum £14,062 10s. 0d., has already been distributed in payment of an interim dividend on the "A" and "B" shares for the half-year ending 30th June at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum free of income tax.

The Directors have added £30,000 to the reserve fund (raising the latter to £110,000) and they have set aside £2,000 towards the formation of an officers' pension fund. They now recommend a further dividend on the "A" and "B" shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, for the second half of the year, leaving a balance of £15,102. 1s 0d. to be carried forward.

Mr. James Campbell, the Chief Manager, has been appointed to a seat on the Board.

The following directors retire by rotation, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election:—Sir Alexander Wilson and R. W. Chamney, Esq.

It will be necessary to appoint auditors. Messrs. Copper Brothers & Co., and Messrs. W. A. Browne & Co., the retiring auditors, offer themselves for re-election.

By order of the Board.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Chief Manager.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE SHEET.
31st December, 1904.
Dr.

To capital authorised:—			
30,000 "A" shares of £25 each		£750,000	
30,000 "B" shares of £25 each		750,000	
		£1,500,000	
Capital issued:—			
15,000 "A" shares, £12 10s. paid	£187,500 0 0		
30,000 "B" shares, £12 10s. paid	375,000 0 0	£562,500 0 0	
To reserved fund		110,000 0 0	
To current accounts and fixed deposit accounts		2,238,727 8 0	
To bills payable:—			
Drafts on London bankers against cash and security per contra	£ 65,786 8 10		
Drafts on head office and branches	327,909 3 7		
Drafts on continental bankers and other agents	566 0 8	394,261 13 1	
To loans payable against security per contra		630,589 11 11	
To acceptances on account of customers, per contra		111,096 5 5	
To sundry accounts, including rebates and provision for bad and doubtful debts		259,670 16 0	
To profit and loss account		29,164 11 0	
		£4,386,010 5 5	

Contingent liability on bills receivable re-discounted £2,582,180 13s. 4d. of which up to 27th March, 1905, £1,772,122 2s. 10d. have run off.

The bank is also contingently liable in respect of Notes outstanding amounting to £7,961 3s. 2d., which are not expected to become payable and are not included in the above.

Forward exchange contracts outstanding for purchase and sale of bills and telegraphic transfers, £2,705,969 0s. 3d.

Cr.

By cash in hand and at bankers		£423,829 4 1	
By money at call		10,000 0 0	
By bullion		220,992 18 11	
By Government and other stocks:—			
Consols and securities guaranteed by the British Government	£111,134 0 0		
Indian Government rupee paper	227,142 16 0		
Indian Government sterling stock and guaranteed railway debentures	92,262 10 0	430,539 6 0	
By bills receivable and advances		1,799,216 3 7	
By bills discounted		70,738 15 0	
By loans receivable and advances		1,261,863 3 7	
By freehold banking premises		13,417 14 5	
By liabilities of customers for acceptances per contra		111,096 5 5	
By sundry accounts, including amounts due by agents		44,316 14 5	
		£4,386,010 5 5	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.
For the year ending 31st December, 1904.

To expenses of management at head office, branches and agencies	£59,952 17 2	
To ad interim dividend for half-year ending 30th June, 1904, on 15,000 "A" shares and 30,000 "B" shares at 5 per cent. per annum	14,062 10 0	
To amount transferred to reserve fund	30,000 0 0	
To amount transferred to officers' pension fund	2,000 0 0	
By balance	29,164 11 0	
	£135,179 18 2	
By balance from 31st December, 1903	£37,989 8 6	
Less dividends:—		
For half-year ending 31st December, 1903, on 15,000 "A" shares at 5 per cent. per annum	£4,687 10 0	
For the year ending 31st December, 1903, on 30,000 "B" shares at 5 per cent. per annum	18,750 0 0	
	23,437 10	
	14,551 18 6	
By gross profit for the year ending 31st December, 1904, after providing for bad and doubtful debts	120,627 19 8	
	£135,179 18 2	

OPENING OF HONGKONG SAILORS' INSTITUTE.

The opening ceremony in connection with the New Sailors' Institute, 72 and 73 Praya East. was performed by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, yesterday afternoon. Amongst those present were Sir H. S. and Lady. Berkeley, Admiral Curzon-Howe, Hon. Captain Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., Hon. Dr. Clark, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Rev. J. H. France, Mr. and Mrs G. H. Piercy, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Captain Milroy, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. Hippell, Mrs. Hoare, Rev. C. H. Hickling, Mr. and Mrs. Stringer, Rev. C. Gordon-Vaudin, R. N., Rev. G. Searle, C. F. and R. A. B. Ponsonby, His Excellency's A.D.C. An apology was received from His Lordship Bishop Hoare, regretting his inability to be present owing to a longstanding engagement. The Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, who was to have taken part in the opening ceremony was also absent owing to the non-arrival of the C.P.R. steamer *Empress of Japan* on board of which Mr. Stewart is a passenger.

After an opening prayer, the REV. J. H. FRANCE, before calling upon His Excellency to perform the opening ceremony, said that his thoughts went back some two years, to a time when they were compelled to close an institution which had been doing very good work on this side of the harbour for some years. Very reluctantly they decided to close that institution known as the "Star" Coffee House, and from that time the Committee had set themselves to work if possible to provide a place of their own, and obtain a site for same on some suitable situation. Hongkong was in need of such an institution to meet the wants of sailors—especially of His Majesty's

service—when on shore on 48 hours leave. Moved by the fact that beds were really very limited, and existing institutions were not able to meet the needs of the men when ashore, the committee were led to approach His Excellency to ask if by any possible means they might obtain on favourable terms a grant of Government land. His Excellency lent his aid in a most cordial and sympathetic spirit, and did what was possible to forward the project, but unexpected difficulties arose, and the site they had hoped to obtain was not at present available. Acting again on His Excellency's suggestion, they endeavoured to rent a house or houses for the purpose of carrying on this work. They were led to apply to the Hongkong Land Investment Company, and obtained the present houses on a three years' lease, at a moderate rental, and with power to alter and adapt to meet the needs of the work. The premises at present were a mere shell and there was a good deal of furniture to arrive. When this arrived and was put into position the institute would be in every respect such as a sailor ashore for the night would find very comfortable. They hoped later to have a better supply of literature, and a good billiard table. Meals would be supplied as nearly as possible at cost price so as not to make a too heavy demand on the pockets of those who made use of the place. They would endeavour as far as possible to cater for the spiritual, moral and material needs of man, who was a many-sided animal and needed something more than tracts something more than the spiritual side of nature. They wanted to catch him on every side if possible. He hoped they would be able to form nobler aspirations and advance those who frequented the institute a little nearer the realisation of perfect manhood. If such were realised they would have reason to think that the institute did not exist in vain. Before sitting down he wished to express his deep sense of gratitude personally to His Excellency for the very kindly interest he had taken in the work which he had greatly helped forward. (Applause).

His Excellency, who on rising was loudly cheered, said:—Ladies and Gentlemen, I am grateful to the Rev. Mr. France for giving me the opportunity of being here this afternoon. His invitation to me, and also the remarks which he has made, refer to the sympathy I have shown towards the Seamen's Mission. I am sorry it is not practicable to put that sympathy into the form of government assistance to replace the old 'Star" Coffee house which, as we have been told, closed two years ago for want of funds; but the government is always very careful when asked to give to one section of the community. the funds or property which it holds in trust for the community at large. However, a site shall be reserved, and lent to the Mission on favourable terms. I have been thinking over a scheme which I will discuss with the gentlemen managing the affairs of the institution, and it may then be possible to provide a permanent home at an earlier date. Meantime I am glad, as you all are, that it has been found possible to open temporary premises for the benefit of seamen ashore. Seamen ashore are a special class, because they are mainly ashore for the purposes of recreation. Their work is done at sea where we do not see them. It is not then to be wondered at that some unpleasant forms of recreation—having regard to a great seaport like this—such as cases of insobriety and frequenting low houses, should come before our eyes in Hongkong, which tend to lower the prestige of the white man before the Chinese, and depreciate sailors' respect, which as a class they deserve from all those who appreciate what the sailors have done for our country, and have at heart the maintenance, good order, and good name of the colony. And this house has been started to provide decent accommodation for the sailor at night and reasonable recreation for him during the day, and the kindly and sympathetic influence and assistance of the Chaplains of the Mission. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I declare the house to be now opened (applause).

Admiral Curzon Howe said the Commander-in-Chief, General Villiers-Hatton, desired him to express to His Excellency and the ladies and gentlemen present, how sorry he was that he was unable to attend the opening ceremony. The speaker then proposed that the best thanks of this meeting be given to His Excellency the Governor for his kindness in having consented to open this Institute, and for the sympathetic interest that he has taken in its establishment. His Excellency's brief response terminated the ceremony, after which His Excellency was shown over the premises.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PUBLIC SPIRITED GENEROSITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 1st May.

Sir,—At the meeting of the Sanitary Board on the 18th April, a discussion arose in connection with the question of the dumping of dead bodies in the streets and harbour by the poorer class Chinese in the Colony. Various reasons were assigned for this objectionable practice. With a view to ascertain the real reason, and of providing a remedy, I have advertised freely in all the Chinese newspapers circulating in the Colony, the offer to provide free burials for the poor and friendless.

I beg to enclose a copy of a translation in English of the notice, which may not be without interest to you.—Yours faithfully

HO KOM TONG.

The enclosure referred to reads:—"All Chinese householders are invited in the case of a death occurring in their house, and the deceased happening to be friendless and without effects to meet the burial expenses, to keep the body in the house and not dump it in the street. Those who are too poor to defray the burial expenses are requested to communicate with Mr. Ho Kom Tong who will be glad to make all the arrangements for the burial and to defray the necessary expenses himself."

NEW CHURCH AT SHEK-KEI

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—The May leaflet of the Hongkong C. M. A. records the consecration by the Bishop of Victoria of a new native church at Shek-kei, Heung-Shan. The writer of the report really ought to consider the righteousness or otherwise of trifling with Truth, even in jest. He says "The rain worn out, perhaps, by its recent exertions, ceased to descend." Not much exception can be taken to that, except that it is difficult to see how rain that was "worn out by its exertions" could be in a position to "cease to descend." When the missionary writer assures us that "the fog, at last taking compassion on the sea-faring man, lifted," I fear he cannot be so sincere as his cloth demands. Shakespeare likened mercy to dew, but this gentleman positively attributes compassion to a fog. The Bishop had invited six missionaries to accompany him, and I fear they failed to realize their opportunities. It is written:—"We breakfasted on deck from unlimited supplies at eight o'clock, and after Morning Prayer had been said by the Bishop, were free to devote our energies to admiring the scenery." Life is so short, and duty so big, that I am afraid I must regard that as a confession of wasted time Was there not the crew to plead with, in season and out of season? Approaching Shek-kei, the reverend raconteur notes that "the pagoda towers well up on a high hill at the back of Shek-kei, and if its influence is effective in the same ratio as a lightning conductor, a very large tract of country must rejoice in secure protection!" This excellent satire shows a return to the praiseworthy energy in a good cause which I think we all expect of our missionaries; but I am not altogether pleased yet. I fear the possible effects of ratiocination. Is there not a danger that the dignity of our own venerated spires may be thus exposed to attack in return? We cannot be too careful. The new church "is a fairly substantial looking building (the pride of the Shek-kei Christians), two stories high, high enough, it is said, to injure the 'fung-shui' of some neighbouring houses. On the ground floor is a preaching hall for *heathen* congregations, a school-room, and several small rooms to accommodate teachers." Upstairs (two elaborate stone stairs cases) is a "pretty little church, lofty, airy, and well lighted. . . Perhaps the stained glass will come in time." It is to be hoped the dear Bishop took at least one missionary who would warn our native brethren against perils of spiritual pride, pomp, and vainglory. It is so hard to get the Chinese to see things as we do. During the service there was a regrettable misunderstanding.

"The Bishop stood up to the Communion rails and gave out his text from the Prophet Haggai—"*The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of Hosts; and in this place I will give Peace*"—then a loud cry was raised: 'the floor is giving way.' Instantly there was a great hubbub and commotion especially among the heathen women. It was found to be a false alarm, and after some time with great difficulty calm and order were restored, and the service of Consecration proceeded. At the end of the prayer for the Church Militant the Native Pastor three times pronounced the 'Missa est' but even then one of the English Clergy was compelled to walk down the Church and personally persuade the non-Communicants to leave. And some, we were afterwards told, went down by one stairway only to come back by the other!" The writer continues:—

"We left Shek-kei at three o'clock, though to do so we had 'regretfully' to decline a pressing invitation to a feast which was to be held at five. As the tide allowed it we returned to Hongkong by a way that brought us past Macao. The ship was small and the sea was big. Some of us knowing that an extra passenger had been taken on board, and fearing lest provisions should run short, considerately absented ourselves from dinner! 'But that was to cast a slur on a generous provider,' we were told. By no means. We realised the possibility of being stuck on a mud bank for several days!" This consideration for the needs of other passengers merits our approval; but I could wish the writer had remembered the need for doing good by stealth. It has been suggested to me that the writer intends some humorous reference to seasickness; but as such vulgarity would be out of place in the church leaflet, and as it would involve an accusation against the reverend writer, of having deliberately (for no higher purpose than to create mirth—the laughter of fools that is as thorns crackling under a pot) made a misstatement, I refuse to believe it. May I ask you for your opinion?

Yours in all sincerity,

JONAH.

[The Editor considers the quotation in a humorous light. "Jonah" ought not to regard all missionary utterances as statements of fact.]

MURDER BY AN ANNAMITE.

Saigon papers, eight days after the event, received news from the French Administrator at Puloh Condor of an assassination there on the 11th April. One of them suggests that, as there is telegraphic communication with that place, and as Puloh Condor is a place whence the movements of the Baltic Squadrons might be noted, there may have been a reason for the delay.

The victim of the murder was M. Joseph Denier, a "guardian" of the French native prison on the island of Puloh Condor. It appears that M. Denier had occasion to make an unfavourable report of the conduct of an Annamite mechanic who was working out a sentence He was sitting at breakfast on April 11th when the prisoner stepped in at a window and asked him not to mention the punishment in his report to the Governor. Guardian Denier said it must go in, whereupon the Annamite, who had provided himself with a home-made cutlass, lunged at him twice, the blade penetrating the lungs and stomach. M. Denier ran from the room, calling for help; and the prisoner, snatching up a revolver that was in the room, gave chase. He fired five times, but missed. He then disappeared. M. Denier was taken to the Gaol Infirmary, where he died in great agony two days afterwards. Search is being made for the assassin. This is the fourth similar affair in two years at the same prison.

THE HEALTH OF CANTON.

A report by Dr. E. C. Davenport, covering the health of Canton for the fifteen months ended 31st March, 1904, is published by the Statistical Department of the I. M. C.

The general health of the foreign community has not been altogether good, owing to an increase in the number of cases of typhoid fever, dysentery, and diphtheria.

On the foreign Settlement of Shamien, in 15 months there have been eight births and three deaths. Three deaths also occurred in Hongkong hospitals amongst patients removed from Canton to Hongkong.

Of these six deaths, two were caused by tyhoid fever, and one by plague.

A few cases of plague occurred among the natives during January and February 1903, but the disease did not appear to spread widely till the following March; it then continued till July, when nothing more was heard of it. Four cases came under my notice, two Chinese and two Japanese, all of which were fatal. One French gentleman resident in Canton contracted the disease in the port and died subsequently in Hongkong.

At the end of this month (March, 1904) I find on inquiry that there is little or no plague present in this port. The Chinese say that there were comparatively few deaths last year from plague; but an accurate, or even approximate, idea of the number of deaths is impossible in Canton.

Little or no cholera was heard of in the port during the past year. This fact is worthy of note, as the death rate from this disease was very high the previous year, both among natives and foreigners.

Two serious cases of ptomaine poisoning occurred on steamers in the port; one patient was a Chinese and the other a Customs employé, who had partaken of meat pies. Both patients recovered.

Two cases of small-pox among foreigners occurred in Canton; both these arrived in the port already infected. The first case, a Customs employé, came from Kumchuk, and was isolated in Canton. Patient had been vaccinated once in infancy; had a mild attack of the discrete in variety and made an uninterrupted recovery.

The second patient was apparently infected in Shanghai or some other northern port. He was removed on the steamer of which he was an officer to Hongkong, where preparations were made for reception and isolation of patient, re-vaccination of all the crew, and disinfection of steamer. Patient had a severe attack of the confluent type, but ultimately recovered.

In all, five cases of diphtheria, among foreigners came under my notice during the winter months.

In the 15 months 12 cases of enteric fever amongst foreigners have come under my notice, and all, with the exception of three, occurred on Shamien. Two of these proved fatal. The first fatal case occurred on 27th February 1903, and was complicated with malaria. The second case, that of a German living on Shamien, and who also had malaria, was removed to Hongkong on 27th February, 1904, and died on the 22nd of the following month.

Of the 10 cases, all were of a mild type, except two, namely, the first being a lady who had lately arrived in the East from England, and was removed early in the disease to the Peak Hospital in Hongkong; and the second patient being a Customs employé, who was also removed to the Government Civil Hospital in Hongkong, where he ultimately recovered, after a relapse.

At the time of writing a Customs probationer is suffering from typhoid fever at the Government Civil Hospital, where he was sent as soon as diagnosis was confirmed, as the quarters for such cases and the facilities for obtaining the needful and continual attention are inadequate in this port.

There has been a very noticeable increase in the number of cases of Dysentery. In all, 23 cases have been treated by me during the last 15 months, and several cases have occurred under the care of my colleagues. Most of them have been of a mild type and respondent to treatment, which consisted of rest in bed, very light diet of milk and chicken broth, ipecacuanha in large doses (about 40 grains) at onset in early cases, and 20 grains of salicylate of busmuth, 10 grains of carbonate of ioda, and 5 grains of compound powder of specacuanha three times a day till all symptoms have disappeared. With these I have habitually given 2 drachms of sulphate of soda in hot water in the morning, and have in addition washed out large intestine with weak solution of boracic acid.

With one exception, all the cases that have been treated after this manner have done well from the onset; but the cases that have been going about doing their work with the disease present on them for many days before submitting to treatment have proved obstinate. The worst case, or rather the most protracted one, was a young man who came under observation on the 3rd day of disease: was given 40 grains of powdered ipecacuanha, but was unable to retain it, in spite of previous dose of one grain of opium.

There have been several cases of malaria during the past year, but mostly of a mild form. One case of malignant malaria from the Customs Service was treated in Hongkong Hospital, where patient ultimately recovered. During building operations in the course of the last year several cases of malaria occurred in two houses in the immediate vicinity when foundations were being laid and earth removed.

A. M., a member of the Customs staff at Samshui, was shot by pirates on the West River. Patient was brought to Canton and, by kind permission of Dr. J. M. Swan, was admitted into the American Missionary Hospital. On examination there was a small external wound where bullet had entered below and a little to the right of nasal septum; teeth, with alveolar and palatal processes of right superior maxilla, were loose

Roentgen rays revealed bullet lying in jaw at floor of antrum of Highmore. Under chloroform, loose teeth and fragments of jaw were easily removed and bullet extracted. Small process of maxillary process of molar bone was removed with bone forceps. A large opening remained between the mouth and antrum This closed up chiefly, but not entirely, until a small plastic operation was performed some few months later by Dr. Noble, of Hongkong, who constructed a plate with false teeth to fit the mouth. Beyond the trouble and annoyance of removing the plate daily, patient suffers but little inconvenience.

During the past year several houses and godowns have been built on the Concession of Shamien, but the accommodation for the increasing population is still insufficient.

The drains on Shamien are, I regret to say, in very defetcive and insanitary condition. The "outhouses" of several "lots" have been found to be very unhealthy and to have a very deficient accommodation for Chinese servants. Repairs and improved systems are now in course of construction.

For many years past the drainage of Shamien has been carried out by the deep system of drains, which are composed chiefly of glazed tiles and bricks, with little or no cement, and without any bed of concrete. The central drains are in many cases at the present time lying at a lower level than the exits of the mains at the Bund, this sinking being due to the fall of the central portion of the Settlement, which is owing greatly to the previous condition of the existing drains and continuous carriage of sand etc., as the drains empty at each fall of the tide. Many drains have been found to be almost entirely occluded by roots of trees, of which there are many on Shamien, and also detritus of all kinds. Sewage, etc., now percolates through the pervious drains into the bed of sand, and ultimately pollutes the only water supply, namely, the wells. Furthermore, at high tides, water is forced back through the sewers and causes emanation of sewer gas in and near various compounds, and is a source of danger to residents in the immediate neighbourhood.

The increased number of cases of typhoid fever, dysentery, diarrhœa, diphtheria, and septic throats that have occurred of late is probably caused chiefly by the defective and insanitary drainage system. For this reason, and having in view further increase in population, a more sanitary system of drainage is urgently called for. With a low-lying and subsiding Settlement, surrounded by a tidal river, such as Shamien is, the most suitable method of drainage seems to be an entirely surface system. The advantages anticipated by this method over the existing deep system are:—

1. The ability to close all the existing exits at the sea wall, which, with additional pointing by cement of the whole of the Bund wall around Shamien, will minimise the washing away of sand, etc., and consequent subsidence of the Settlement and sinking of the initial and middle portions of the drains.

2 Should any cracking and sinking of the drains occur, defects are readily seen and more easily remedied.

3. There should be no regurgitation at high tide, and no escape of poisonous gases anywhere near respective compounds.

4. There would be no obstruction by roots of trees.

5. Any garbage that may find access, either accidentally or wilfully, can be readily removed.

6 With unbroken drains, composed of concrete, further pollution of wells will be impossible.

7. More healthy, owing to influence of sun and air upon contents of drain.

8. No harbour offered to rats or cockroaches.

9. Expense of outlay less.

10. Whereas annual expense of maintenance may be greater, owing to coolie hire by Municipal Council for sweeping, etc., expense will be more uniform than that incurred by any other system.

11. Efficiency experienced by this system in similar conditions in other towns.

The system as recommended should be used for sullage and surface water only, and no sewage of any description. Various landowners would be required to connect their respective drains with municipal drains alongside their compound, and in most cases only at small cost.

All sewage should be conveyed daily, as at present time, by buckets, and is a source of revenue to the Municipal Council. The only danger or objection to carrying out this system is the possibility of causing epidemic of fever, etc; but such an event, I trust, will not occur.

ALLEGED INFRINGEMENT OF A PORT REGULATION.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland (First Police Magistrate) and Mr. Basil Taylor (Nautical Assessor) at the Police Court on May 2, Captain Lalor, licensed pilot, was charged with that on the 19th March, while in charge of the s.s. *Slavonia* he unlawfully did infringe a regulation made by the Harbour Master in not bringing the said ship up to the No. 1 Wharf of the Godown Company so as to avoid accident and damage to the said ship, which struck No. 2 wharf and was damaged thereby. Mr. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) prosecuted, and Mr. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Looker supplied their worships with a plan of the Kowloon wharves, explained to them the conditions governing the berthing of ships on either side of a wharf, and described the nature of the tides in connection with the wharf in question. He further stated that it was the duty of a pilot to use his utmost care and diligence, and more was expected from him than from the driver of a carriage. If it were proved that this accident could have been avoided, he submitted that the negligence proved a breach of the regulation. The Godown Company took no responsibility for the berthing of ships, but had a wharfinger to render assistance if necessary. It was an improper thing for the pilot to carry out his manœuvres for going alongside with four or five Chinese launches hanging on to the side of his ship, as serious damage might have accrued to the ship, and it was merely a matter of luck that she sustained no more damage than she did. There had never been any accident under the old Chinese pilots, but since the new Ordinance had been introduced there had been imminent risk, and it was to remind the present pilots of the care it was necessary for them to exercise that these proceedings were being instituted. The points he wished to introduce to their worships' consideration were (1) The pilot did not adopt the ordinary precaution of going close up to the wharf to ascertain the state of tide; (2) when

turning the ship to head her into the shore he did not turn her in the right place where ships are ordinarily turned, but turned her too far out and too far down; (3) he failed to hand out the stern rope as soon as the launch went for it; (4) he also failed to hand out at once the extra tow rope which the launch was sent for; (5) he passed the stern rope through the bollard at the stern of the ship, which prevented his getting the proper purchase on; (6) he attempted to berth the ship with four or five launches on her starboard side.

Evidence was led and the case adjourned.

THE LATE RUSSIAN MINISTER AT PEKING.

With regard to the death of M. Paul Lessar, the Russian Minister at Peking, the *N.-C. Daily News* remarks: A serious invalid for years, it seemed that only his devotion to duty kept him alive, and he was young as diplomatists go, being only in his 54th year. An engineer, by profession, whose work had lain mainly in Central Asia, he came into prominence first at the time of the Penjdeh affairs, his knowledge of the locality making him a most valuable assistant to the Russian Ambassador in London He was appointed Councillor of the Embassy, and was at times Charge d'Affaires, his intellect and personal manners making him very popular in London. He succeed M. de Giers at Peking and versed though he was in every art of Russian diplomacy, he has had a hard task to uphold his country's interests in all the difficulties caused by the war with which he had no sympathy; and he goes to his rest with nothing but admiration for his dauntless energy and unfailing courtesy.

DEATH OF DR. EDKINS.

Widespread regret will be felt at the news of the death of the Rev. Dr. J. Edkins, which sad event took place on April 23rd at Shanghai. He was taken ill about April 16th with pneumonia. By his death China loses one of its best known missionaries and sinologues. The *N. C. Daily News* comments:

Dr. Edkins was born nearly 82 years ago near Stroud, in Gloucestshire. He took his degree at the London University in 1843, and arrived in Shanghai in connection with the London Missionary Society in 1848. He was welcomed to China by Dr. Medhurst (the father of Sir Walter Medhurst) who was the first Protestant Missionary in Central China.

In 1861 Dr. Edkins pushed north from Shanghai(after the cessation of hostilities in connection with the Taiping rebellion, and first at Chefoo for a short time, then at Tientsin, and finally at Peking, he laboured energetically and successfully, earning the respect and love of his colleagues as well as of others who were privileged to know him.

About the year 1880 he accepted an important position in the Government department of the Chinese Imperial Customs. He, however, kept up his connection with the London Missionary Society, and the last two or three years had charge of the service every Sunday afternoon in the London Mission Chapel in Shanghai.

Dr. Edkins was married three times, his third wife surviving to mourn his loss.

Dr. Edkins has left behind him a reputation for profound scholarship and persevering industry, of which the many able works from his pen bear eloquent testimony. He was recognised in every land as an authority of the very highest rank on all subjects pertaining to China—its history, philosophy philology, and culture. Up to the very last his unimpaired powers were devoted to his favourite studies, and this he was able to do by reason of the excellent health he enjoyed. Although over 80 years of age he was hale and vigorous, and gave one the appearance of being nearer three than fourscore years of age. Of his kind and affectionate nature, it is scarcely necessary to speak; all who knew him loved him. Now that he has left us he will be long missed and mourned, when his familiar face is no longer seen at the religious, philanthropic, and educational meetings that he so loved to take part in, and where those who attended were instructed and helped by his wise words and kindly presence.

THE OUTRAGE NEAR HANGCHOW.

The American Vice-Consul General at Shanghai contributed the following to our contemporary, with reference to the murderous attack on one of "Elijah" Dowie's missionaries.

Chihwuli is a very small village about fifty miles north-west of Hangchow in the mountains. In this village Mr. Kennedy had rented a lecture hall and living rooms in a large private dwelling, where he lived and taught the doctrines of his faith. He had been in the village four weeks and had gathered about him several natives, who were either converts or prospective Christians. For several days he had been holding evening meetings to which all the natives were invited, and at which the attendance was good. On Wednesday night, the 12th inst., after one such meeting Mr. Kennedy retired about twelve o'clock, and the outer doors of the house and the compound were locked and barred as usual. About one o'clock Mr. Kennedy was awakened by terrifying screams, only to be struck upon the head the next instant, with some weapon that rendered him unconscious. When he recovered consciousness it was daylight, and he was in another room, his face, hands, and body covered with blood and dirt, and with several severe wounds about the head, arms, and hands. More than this he remembers nothing.

Mr. Cloud, the American Vice-Consul at Hangchow, accompanied by an armed guard of soldiers from the Governor's yamen, started for the village of Chihwuli early on Tuesday morning, and arrived at Yuhanghsien at 3 p.m. The village of Chihwuli was thirty miles distant in the mountains. The party left Yuhang at 6 30 p.m. and travelled all night over very rough mountain roads, reaching their destination at 5 p.m. on the 19th inst. They found the missionary living in a very dirty Chinese hut, and attended by anxious natives. His wounds had not been dressed, or washed, and he was covered with blood and dirt from the blow where he had fallen. He was very weak from his seven days' suffering and lack of proper food. The doctor who accompanied the party dressed his wounds, and preparations were made to carry him to Hangchow.

At 9 a.m. the party started for Hangchow. At Yuhang a boat had been prepared, and the party reached Hangchow the next morning Mr. Kennedy was taken to the hospital, where he is at present confined. His wounds are very severe, but there is little doubt of his recovery.

The magistrate of Yuang has apprehended three or four of the gang's leaders, and is making strenuous efforts to arrest the two dozen others who are implicated.

From the evidence so far obtainable, the attack would appear to have been committed by men intent upon robbery only, and it is not thought to be connected with any anti-foreign or anti-missionary feeling.

THE LATE SIR R. T. RENNIE.

The news, which has only reached Shanghai indirectly, of the death at home of Sir Richard Temple Rennie, has been received with much sorrow by those who have been long enough resident in the East to recall the brilliant legal acumen and charming social personality of he judge who presided over the Supreme Court here from 1882 till 1891. Prior to his appointment as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, which then included Japan, as well as China and Corea, in its jurisdiction, Sir Richard had been for four years Judge of H.M.'s Court in Japan. He was a son of the late Mr. George Rennie, M.P., born in 1839, called to the bar by the Inner Temple in 1860, and knighted in 1882. We cannot do better than re-echo the words of a writer in the *Japan Mail* who says:—"He was a man of eminently high judicial abilities and as a friend it was impossible not to be attracted by his genial disposition and many charms of manner and conversation. He obeyed and improved the best traditions of English justice; he was always foremost in works of charity; he knew no distinction of persons; he dispensed the widest hospitality; and whatever was for the benefit of the community found in him an active supporter."—*N.C. Daily News.*

BALTIC FLEET NEWS.

STILL AT VAN FONG BAY.

"Yes, we saw the invincible Armada" replied Second Officer Gully of the s.s. *Waihora*, which arrived here from Penang on the 4th inst., in reply to a question from a *Daily Press* reporter. Captain Brown, master of the *Waihora* referred our representative to Mr. Gully who was the officer of the watch when the vessel passed the Baltic fleet, and the second officer related his story as follows:—We saw about forty vessels riding at anchor in the bay, amongst them three three-funnellers and four or five two-funnellers. The majority of them were not very modern ships and one, with the royal yards across, I am almost sure was a boys' training ship. The *Peterburg* was doing patrol duty outside the entrance to the bay, but did not signal us as we passed. The vessels were still coaling. The whole fleet is within the three mile limit of the Annam coast. Probably the Russian Admiral left Kamrahn Bay because he was aware that in the event of a Japanese torpedo attack he was in a veritable death trap. His position at Van Fong Bay, forty-five miles north, is a little better, but not much. In case of an attack he might have the opportunity of escaping through the Kua channel between Kua Island and the coast, but the Japanese are aware of, and would no doubt guard the passage to freedom. "I have told you all I noticed in passing" remarked Mr. Gully, "but if you can spare the time I would like to show you some extracts from the diary of one of the ship's company with regard to the fleet." Our reporter remarked that time was no object provided news was forthcoming, and after a few moments absence the Second returned and opened the book at a page which was headed

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE OF A PENANG STEAMER.

"While passing Kamrahn Bay (wrote the owner of the diary) we took a good survey of the same, but saw nothing of the Russian Armada. The weather was very fine and had the appearance of having been so for some time, so I imagine the Armada, with its crew in good health and full of spirit, must have sailed away at day light with no enemy in sight, as the fishermen there were coming out as we were passing. The sea was calm and covered with a slime—passengers considered it to be caused by fish spawn—but by its greasy appearance and odour (not of an ozone nature) one could easily imagine that the healthy crews had been getting a bath in that locality a short time previously. A French cruiser was steaming in and out near the indents of the shore, probably to prevent any breach of international treaty. A little farther north we passed a most conspicuous monument (Pyramid Rock). A stranger to the coast suggested that nature had thrown it up to commemorate the achievements of the Russian Admiral's great naval victories extending from Russia west to France east, without a wounded man or a crippled ship. However, we were feeling quite safe by their absence, when our prime commander suddenly exclaimed—"the Russian Fleet." How suddenly tranquility lost its equilibrium! Marine, field and other glasses were in great demand, and passengers rushed fore and aft almost bereft of reason. The officers on the bridge kept their eyes on the famous *Victory II* (the *Petersburg*), which was doing hawk duty at the entrance to Van Fong Bay. Then our task began counting and measuring our possible combatants. We felt it was hopeless as the armada loomed clearer in a forest of funnels and masts Fortunately most of the three-funnelled craft were busy coaling, and apparently did not notice us. The other portion of this modern fleet were evidently squaring their yards—quite a new departure in modern warfare. We felt extremely lucky when we saw the fighting *Petersburg* turn away, not liking the look of our rakish little craft. We had not yet condescended to hoist our national colours when our attention was attracted to another cruiser vulturing around our seaward quarter. With Ross's latest and best the officers recognised the greyhound of the Atlantic (the *Deutschland*). Now our climax against her 23.23 knots. Neither our owners nor Lloyds could have expected us to outship her for any length of time. However, we were thankful that we got away. Great

credit is due to the engine room staff for their masterful performance. During the chase they only came on deck to get a blow and to see the distance increasing between the greyhound and the good old ship *Waihora*. As yet we had not shown our colours; perhaps we were faulty, but had an eleven inch shell struck us we were ready to stand by to hoist St. George's, St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's flags at the peak and the Maltese at the mainmast, and to go down in the ship we love, doing our duty."

THE TIENTSIN GERMAN CONCESSION.

At a meeting held at the Tientsin German Consulate on April 14th arrangements were made for the formation of a German Municipality to run the affairs of the German Concession. Up till now the land has been laid out by a large company. They have built the roads, made a bund and supplied the police and lighting for the roads. This was done under an arrangement with the German Government. These public duties will be carried out by the Municipality, as soon as the resolutions for forming same, which were adopted at this meeting, have been approved and sanctioned by the German Reichstag. The Municipality is to be run on similar lines to others in China There are to be five members of the Council; the chairman and three members must be German. Chinese will not be allowed to vote or be qualified for election on the council but other nationalities will be eligible. Mr. Woelcken proposed that the land in the German extension should not be sold to a big home company, but that it should be left for the community or private individuals to buy the land; he thought it would be in their interest to do so. This motion was carried.

The resolutions have already been despatched home to Germany for confirmation.

THE CHINESE METTLE.

Within the last few days we have had to chronicle several attacks on foreigners by Chinese in this and the adjacent provinces. The circumstances attending the affair at the Ta Sheng Cheong cotton mill on Tuesday will be the subject of inquiry at the Mixed Court and we, therefore, reserve our comment until the full facts are brought to light before the Magistrate and the Assessor. The fact, however, remains that, whatever the causes which led up to the unfortunate disturbance, two foreign residents of this Settlement were in such danger from a body of natives, that they had to be rescued by a posse of police, and although their injuries are happily slight, the affair is one of which it is to be hoped serious notice will be taken. It is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that there is still abroad a feeling of hostility to the foreigner, and it is to be feared that it is fostered rather than repressed by the officials and gentry. The mandarins are generally careful to show their opposition in a more subtle way than by actual violence, but it is there all the same. We have not forgotten incidents which have occurred in connection with the building of the proposed road o the Hills, and the attempt to cut off the beef supply of the Settlement is fresh in everyone's memory. When we read of Viceroys who drink the blood of their victims and sanction the barbarities which have been lately described by our Kueilin correspondent, it is not surprising that the commoner people should show their lack of the restraints of modern civilisation.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

LAND SALES.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on 1st May I. L. 1740 situated at Causeway Bay, was sold to Robert Corney, contractor, for, $5,020, being $20 above the upset price.

Messrs Hughes and Hough yesterday auctioned the R. P. of I. L. 1216 situated at Park View, Lyttleton Road. There were several bidders. The land was sold to Mr. Lau Chu Pak for $7,500 for the equity of redemption, subject to a mortgage of $27,500.

REVIEWS.

Chun-Kwang, a tale of Chinese Love and Tragedy, by OLIVER G. READY, B.A., London; Chapman and Hall, Limited. 6s.

The Reviewer does not pretend to know the Chinaman as well as Mr. Ready knows him. *Entre nous*, he would prefer not to. It is, therefore, against perfectly fair criticism in this case that he should be introduced to a Chinese Romeo, a character which he considers in the light of a Mrs. Harris. Still, there are more philosophists than Mr. Ready who aver that John Chinaman is of a very romantic and sentimental disposition and there is nothing for it but to bow to superior knowledge. It can be said without hesitation that in the really pretty and interesting narrative of the course of young Chinese love, the author has managed to introduce a great mass of really faithful description of the habits and customs of the people amongst whom he has spent many years. It should be noted, moreover, that Mr. Ready claims that his characters really existed, and he honestly believes that his pictures of Chinese life and society are neither exaggerated nor minimized. The "atmosphere" of the book is convincingly Chinese, although the Reviewer still thinks that the heroine was too good to be true. Her conduct, in Chinese eyes, must appear blameworthy, sweet and intelligent as she seems to the foreign reader. It would be difficult to present a better picture of Chinese "legal" procedure; and the little account of the magistrates in consultation is particularly neat. The reasons for a particular judgment were eminently reasonable, Orientally regarded. The Chinese middleman is also a character well hit off. A capital feature of the book is to be found in its illustrations, pictures drawn to order by a Chinese artist Those who have had "goose-flesh" at seeing foreign attempts to illustrate Chinese or Japanese looks will know how to appreciate these charming drawings. The book is neatly and strongly packed in blue cloth.

Macao: the Holy City: 'the Gem of the Orient Earth;" by J. Dyer Ball, M.R.A.S., Canton: China Baptist Publication Society. $1.50.

Mr. Ball has done better work than this, and he might have been better advised to leave the compiling of a mere guide book to some smaller man. It is not particularly well written, judging by the standard set by the vivacious "Things Chinese" of the same author; and so cannot add to his reputation as a littérateur. Typographically, it confers upon him unmerited disgrace. Apparently the China Baptist Publishes did not trouble to obtain any author's corrections, for at the end there are three pages of errata, containing 161 recorded mistakes, and there are errata even in the list of errata. Add to that the most severe censure on account of the hideously unsuitable type used for cross-headings, and it will be gathered that the Reviewer had little pleasure in the performance of his immediate task. An apparently exhaustive index may make the book useful to visitors who want to see all there is to see at Macao. It is a matter of taste, perhaps, but the Reviewer cannot imagine anybody being pleased with Macao scenery after seeing Hongkong. Stone piles like Cromwellian castles are capable of picturesqueness in decay but the historical stuccoes and adobes of Macao have a second-hand air about them that goes well with the grime and sordidness of the Chinese house. It might be "the gem" in Camoen's time, but it seems to be a gem needing some polishing and re-setting now. The book is "marked down" from $2 to $1.50. In its present form, people will pay $2 for it just as readily as they will the smaller sum.

A Japanese Utopia, by Leonard Arthur Magnus. London: Geo. Routledge and Sons Limited. 1s.

Japan is evidently still a name to conjure publishers with. Mr. Magnus has thought so, for except in the title, and on the foolish title-page picture showing an impossible Japanese lady in impossible clothes surrounded by impossible furniture, there is nothing Japanese about the whole book. The Reviewer has a well-founded theory that Mr. Magnus read Gulliver's Travels, Robinson Crusoe, The Pilgrim's Progress, and Mallock's "Veil of the Temple," all in an afternoon, and straightway wrote and compiled A Japanese Utopia, which was probably finished the self-same evening. This Japanese Gulliver's Utopia is so vague that the reader is left unconvinced of its superiority to existing social systems. The best thing noticed is the Utopian newspaper, which was as much a Government affair as is our post-office. "The current number of the Peh-ta-kar was splendid; it had only one page . . . Good literature is rare, and when the editor does get some in Pe-oh, he excludes all the inferior matter; form and space serve good taste, not good taste the form." If the editor of the *Daily Press* wants a Utopian paper to-day, he will know what to do. Those costly cablegrams and intellectual editorials are inferior matter to the "good taste" of the Reviewer! Mr Magnus has some good things to say about religion and education, but they have all been said before. It is a book for a wet week-end in a country house where the cues are all untipped and there is nobody to play cards with.

HONGKONG SANITARY INSTITUTE.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Sanitary Institute of Hongkong was held on the 3rd May in the rooms of the Institute, No. 10, Wyndham Street.

The following office bearers were elected to serve until October next:—Dr. Pearse, chairman; Messrs Cunningham, Jackman Carter and Dr. Clark, committee of management; Dr Macfarlane, treasurer; Mr. Gibson, secretary; and Mr. Carter, assistant secretary.

It was announced that an Examination for Inspectors of Nuisance will be held in October should sufficient candidates present themselves.

A HUMANE (?) DECREE.

The *N.-C. Daily News* translates an April Decree of the Chinese Throne as follows:—

We received the report of Wu Ting-fang and Shên Chia-pên with regard to the revision of the laws of the Empire to meet the requirements of the present age. As a matter of fact, death by decapitation was the severest punishment permitted in the laws of the Imperial dynasty (before the conquest of China), but when our ancestors entered this country the old laws of the preceding Ming dynasty were embodied into our own, in consequence of which such extreme sentences as death by Lingch'ih (slicing process) and the like was allowed in order to serve as a warning to the wicked and reckless. This sort of punishment is not a merciful one and is contrary to our desire in the dispensation of justice and mercy. In view of this, therefore, since our Ministers are engaged in the work of revising our laws we hereby command that only the sentence of decapitation shall be put on criminals guilty of the death penalty, and further command that from henceforth the sentences of Lingch'ih, exposure of the head after decapitation, and beheading the corpse of a malefactor, under sentence of decapitation when alive, shall be abolished for ever. As for those criminals who, under the old laws, are now awaiting death either by Lingch'ih or have been sentenced to decapitation with exposure of the head afterwards let them merely be summarily beheaded. Those who have been sentenced to summary decapitation shall have it changed to summary strangulation, while criminals condemned to summary strangulation are to wait until the grand autumn assizes for final hearing. Persons under sentence of decapitation after the assizes shall be strangled after the grand autumn assizes, that is to say each sentence already given is according to this decree to be commuted one degree. A person, moreover, who has been found upon trial to be an accessory before the fact is to be punished, but anyone not under this category is to be released. Furthermore the punishment of branding a criminal and such like is also to be abolished. The memorialists are also commanded to work diligently and carefully in the duty which has been given them to perform and to lose no time over it so that the revised laws may be speedily printed and published for the knowledge of whole Empire.

COMMERCIAL.

The Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report, published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, and dated Yokohama, April 15th, 1905, has the following :—

IMPORTS.

Yarn.—A few small lots of "gassed" Yarn were booked a fortnight ago; since then nothing has been done. Shirtings—Some contracts were booked for future delivery both in Grey and White. The market closes dull, and buyers appear to have filled their requirements for some time to come. Fancy Cottons and Woollens.— Cotton Goods: no change since last Report. Woollens and Mixtures: no change in the market here. At home prices are fully maintained. Metals.—A fair business has been transacted in Bars, but the market generally is quiet. Kerosene.—Market stronger, with upward tendency. Sugar.—No business has been put through in imported Sugars, and the market continues to be anything but active. Contracted stocks are reported to have been considerably reduced, but the present poor consumption is apparently in the way of fresh transactions, The rumour that the Government intends shortly to inaugurate a Sugar Monopoly is again circulated, but this is not yet confirmed. Indigo.—Nothing doing.

EXPORTS.

Raw Silk.—Holders having been free sellers at slightly lower prices, business during the past fortnight has been rather more active, but prices remain in favour of buyers. Arrivals of spring-reeled Filatures have remained, so far, below expectations, a certain quantity of cocoons still available being reported to be reeled for home consumption.

Waste Silk and Cocoons.—Market very quiet. Settlements 720 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 120 piculs: Kibiso, 600 piculs; Sundries,——piculs; Pierced Cocoons,——piculs. Present stock is estimated at 4,980 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 1,500 piculs; Kibiso, 3,000 piculs; Sundries, 230 piculs; Pierced Cocoons, 250 piculs.

Tea.—With the exception of one or two very small parcels of forced leaf, only amounting to a pound or two each, no new Tea has yet been shown. The unusually cold spring will probably delay the opening of the market for a week or ten days beyond the date corresponding with last year's opening. Total settlements from May 1st to April 15th amount to 178,800 piculs, against 194,600 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

GENERAL EXPORTS.

Copper—No change. Fish Oil—The result of the catch, still going on, has been very satisfactory so far; but, neverthless, sellers are quoting above yen 5 per picul, whilst there are scarcely any buyers at present.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG 4th May, 1905.—The movements in our various Opium markets, since the 19th ult., have been as follows:—

		Malwa.	*Patna.*	*Benares.*	*Persian.*
Stocks as per circular of 19th April, 1905		1,597	2,479	685	2,176
April 20th Imports per	*Chusan*	101	100	40	56
„ 25th „ „	*Lightning*	—	400	345	—
„ 28th „ „	*Woo Sang*	—	—	60	—
May 1st „ „	*Ernest Simons*	—	150	50	—
„ 2nd „ „	*Sui Sang*	—	350	360	—
		1,698	3,479	1,540	2,232
Less Exports to Shanghai		52	—	—	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight		71	562	692	630
Estimated Stocks this day		1,575	2,917	848	1,602

Bengal.—The market is unsettled and has declined to $1,140 for Patna and $1,112½ for Benares.

Malwa.—The demand is still on the smallest possible scale, and quotations are about as follows:—

New	$1,100
2 years old	$1,150
3 „ „	$1,180
4/5 „ „	$1,230
Oldest	$1,330

Persian.—Market is firm for good qualities; medium and inferior are neglected

SUGAR.

HONGKONG 5th May.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	$9.15	to	$9.20	pcls.
Do. „ 2, White	8.10	to	8.15	„
Do. „ 1, Brown	6.95	to	6.96	„
Do. „ 2, Brown	6.80	to	6.85	„
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.90	to	8.95	„
Do. „ 2, White	7.90	to	7.95	„
Do. „ 1, Brown	6.75	to	6.80	„
Do. „ 2, Brown	6.65	to	6.70	„
Foochow Sugar Candy	13.40	to	13.45	„
Shekloong „	12.60	to	12.65	„

RICE.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—There is not much change; the prices as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	$2.15	to	$2.20
„ Round, good quality	3.90	to	3.95
„ Long	4.05	to	4.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.85	to	2.90
„ Garden, „ No. 1	3.20	to	3.30
„ White,	4.25	to	4.30
„ Fine Cargo	4.40	to	4.45

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of May 5th state that 16 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 68,100 tons of Japan coal and 8,900 tons of Cardiff. Since 21st April 47,100 tons of Japan coal, 11,480 tons of Cardiff coal, and 7,000 tons of Newport coal have arrived. The market has somewhat improved. Quotations:—

Cardiff	$17.00 $19.00 ex-ship.
Australian	$11.00 $12.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump	$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Miiki Lump	$11.00 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump	$8.50 to $11.00 ex-ship, steady.

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his Report, dated Hongkong 5th May, says:—No signs of improvement in demand are yet visible, but with the close of the "grave-worshipping" festival, and a change in the weather for the better, a resumption of business should not be far off. Meanwhile holders have been pressing sales at irregular prices to make room for their cheap purchases which are now coming in freely. Nos. 10s and 12s, being in large supplies, have suffered a decline of 50 cents to a Dollar, whilst with small stocks and a sustained enquiry No. 20s have apreciated $1 to $2 per bale, No. 16s continuing steady at quotations. Supplies during the interval have been heavy, and with a smaller off-take our estimate of stocks shows a larger increase on last figures. The market closes unsteady.

Local Manufacture:—The only business of the fortnight is the sale of about 200 bales No. 12s at $108.

Japanese Yarn:—Supplies of No. 16s and No. 20s are exhausted, and a small sale of 100 bales No 42s at $178 is reported. Close strong.

Raw Cotton:—There is nothing doing in China cotton, but Indian descriptions continue to move steadily, and about 1,000 bales Bengal are reported to have changed hands at from $20¾ to $23¾ according to quality, exports amounting to about 1,200 bales, leaving a stock of 6,000 bales on the market. The stock of China Cotton is estimated at 300 bales. Quotations are Indian $19 to $23½, and China $22 to $25.

Exchange on India, after slight fluctuations, closes strong to-day at Rs. 139¾ for T/T and Rs. 140 for Post. On Shanghai 71¾ and on Yokohama 91½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 23rd ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Demand has somewhat subsided, total sales aggregating 4,912 bales at unaltered prices, market closing unsteady. Estimated unsold stock 48,000 bales.

Japanese:—Continue to find ready sales, market closing strong. Sales reported amount to about 3,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 94 to 109 for No. 16s, and Tls. 102 to 109 for No. 20s, prices remaining with little alteration as those last given.

Local:—Market very steady with most of the mills sold well forward, and some again starting night work. Sales reported amount to close upon 10,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 86 to 87 for No. 10s, Tls. 86¾ to 88¾ for No. 12s, Tls. 88½ to 90½ for No. 14s, and Tls 90¾ to 92½ for No. 16s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 28th April, 1905, state:—The remarks we had occasion to make a week or two ago on the recent action of the British Government with regard to certain vital changes that were being made through the apparent ignorance of the Home Authorities, anent the state of affairs out here, have received confirmation as astounding as unexpected, from an utterance made by a high Government Official in the British House of Commons. The statement that "no information has reached the Government as to "China having ignored the terms of the Mackay Treaty" shows precisely how complaints and recommendations alike are pigeon-holed in the Foreign Office in Downing Street, and will, it is hoped, raise such a storm of righteous indignation that there shall be no possible chance of such a thing occurring again. It is hardly credible that some of the Members of the House of Commons, who have important commercial interests in this country, should have allowed such a statement to pass unchallenged. It was felt at the time Sir James Mackay was appointed as the Treaty Commissioner a great mistake has been made in not entrusting the task to some one better acquainted with China and its people. Too much was taken for granted, and there in no question about it the British Government has been completely hoodwinked. Although nearly five years have passed since the Protocol was signed, not a single important clause in it has been carried out. Foreigners have had meekly to submit to extra on their trade—and not only that, but on everything they use now that is imported, and the Likin Taxes, which were to have been abolished in consideration of this direct taxation, are now more irksome than ever, even going to the length of practically interdicting the necessary supplies of fresh provisions from the country. The interval since our last has been taken up almost entirely with the Easter Holidays and business which was nearly at a standstill before has not been resumed yet. There is no political news, nor any information concerning the movements of the armies in the North, or of the fleets in the South, so a state of anxious suspense is over the market at the moment, and though buyers are willing enough to take anything offering at reasonable prices from stock, they are chary about entering into new business for distant delivery. Clearances during the last two days have somewhat made up for the stoppage during the holidays, but stocks in some lines are rapidly accumulating. News from the Outports show no change to speak of since last week. The home markets have also been affected by the holidays, and nothing of any moment has taken place. Latest quotations from Manchester make prices for forward business stronger than ever, so that it seems manufacturers are determined to be on the safe side in case of any future rise in Cotton. Meanwhile the latest quotations for the staples in Liverpool are 4.13d. for Mid. American and 6 1/16d. for Egyptian. The New York market is even higher than Manchester and manufacturers are urging the necessity of booking orders as once, even for delivery well into next year. There has been less interruption in the yard trade, though the business done is not large, but prices are steady to firm. Raw Cotton likewise shows no change in quotations, but the market in weaker if anything.

Piece Goods.—From first hands scarcely anything has been done privately—the most important transactions mentioned being in new chops of White Shirtings at about Tls. 4.50, but for anything over that price there is no enquiry. A fair number of re-sales of American Sheetings have been made amongst the natives, and there is a little more enquiry for Drills; but prices offered, although slightly higher, are intrinsically much lower than Sheetings. The Auction to-day dragged considerably, and the prospect is not very favourable for the sales to-morrow.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 5th May, 1905.

Beans	$3/3¾
Borax	$14½/16¾
Camphor (China)	$118/120
„ (Formosa)	$125
Cassia (First quality)	$17/20
„ (Second „)	$13/15
„ Oil	$154/158
Cloves	$28
Fennel Seed Oil	$310
Galangle	$
Glue	$23½
Grapes	$12½/13
Ivory	$550/700
Kismiss	$15/16
Olibanum	$5/20
Rosa Oil	$60/175
Saltpetre	$10/11
Sandal wood	$27/28
„ Oil	$300/400
Senna Leaves	$2/9
Sugar Candy	$13½
Vermilion	$72/76
Wax	$30/33

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Kaisow*, sailed on 25th April. For London:—36 packages private effects, &c., 30 cases essential oil, 55 cases chinaware, 11 cases blackwoodware, 100 bales split bamboos, 8 cases cigars, 42 bales strawbraid, 103 casks soy, 1285 rolls matting, 100 cases ginger, 164 bales canes, 89 bales feathers, 10 cases bristles. For London or Continent:—162 bales duck feathers. For Antwerp:—38 bales canes.

HANKOW, April 26th, 1905:—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export :—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 35.50
Do. Seconds	„ 31.50
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	„ 18.00
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color	„ 56.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	„ 8.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	„ 12.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	„ 11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	„ 9.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	„ 9.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	„ 8.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	„ 11.50
Animal Tallow	„ 10.00
Gallnuts, Usual shape	„ 17.80
Do. Plum do.	„ 19.00
Black Bristles	„ (nom.)
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	„ „
„ „ „ Wild Duck	„ „
Turmeric	„ 8.00
Sesamum Seed	„ 4.25
Sesamum Seed Oil	„ 7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	„ 8.00
Wood Oil	„ 8.30
Tea Oil	„ 9.00

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th May, 1905.—The market continues dull, with no special features to report. Rates, however, are well maintained and in many cases show improvements.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais remain unchanged, with small sales at $795; market closes steady to strong. The London rate remains unchanged. Nationals are still enquired for at $37, but shares are scarce and we have no business to report.

MARINE INSURANCES—Unions have changed hands at $700. Small lots of China Traders could be placed at $56½, but none seem available. Cantons continue firm, but without business. North Chinas and Yangtszes, no business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs and Chinas continue dull, with sales of the former at the reduced rate of $302½.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have again been placed at $26½ and a few more are wanted at that rate. Indo-Chinas recovered a little during the week and sales were made at $123 and later at $122, closing with buyers at the latter rate. A few forward sales at rather higher than equivalent rates have, however, been put through chiefly for July and August a $127 and $128; market closes steady. The London rate remains at £11. 15s. 0d. Douglases remain unchanged and without sales at $34½s Star Ferries have changed hands at $37½ for old, closing steady at that. Shells and China Manilas continue neglected and without business, but the rate for the former has risen to 22s.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars improved immediately after the settlements, and with a small demand the rate gradually rose to $225 for cash (a small sale was reported at $226). On time a fair number of shares changed hands at higher than equivalent rates, forward sellers being somewhat shy of selling in face of the reported large earnings and good prospects of the Company. At time of writing the market is again somewhat easier at $225. Luzons are still enquired for at $27 without bringing any shares on the market.

MINING.—No change or business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled steady, with small sales at $205 and $204½ for cash, and at equivalent rates forward; market closes with sellers at the former rate. Kowloon Wharves have declined to $106 without any business to report. Farnhams remain unchanged at Tls. 157. New Amoy Docks remain weak at $21 without sales.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands remain neglected at $127. Hongkong Hotels have advanced to $141, after sales at $140 and $140½, market closing firm. Humphreys have advanced to $13 with fair sales, and more are wanted at the price. Kowloon Lands are in a small request at $40. West Points unchanged and without business.

COTTON MILLS.—No business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bell's Asbestos, China Providents, Fenwicks, Green Islands, and South China Morning Posts have all changed hands at quotations. Ices have improved to $131 with buyers, and Tramways to $220 without sales; for the latter $225 would probably be paid. Watsons have found further buyers at $13¼ old and $13 new.

Closing quotations are as follows :—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	$200	$100, buyers
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	$125	$795, sales / London, £80. 10s.
National B. of China	£7	$37, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	$5½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	$12	$13, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	$10	$9, sellers
China Provident	$10	$8½, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 40, buyers
Hongkong	$10	$16½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 42½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 180, sellers
Dairy Farm	$6	$17, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B & Co...	Tls. 100	Tls. 157
H. & K. Wharf & G.	$50	$106, sellers
H. & W. Dock	$50	$205, sellers
New Amoy Dock...	$6¾	$21, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 187½
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	$25	$33, sales & buyers
G. Island Cement.	$10	$26¾, sellers
	$5	$17, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	$160, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	$10	$17½, buyers
Do. New	$5	$11½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	$100	$220, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co...	$50	$141, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	$25	$242, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co...	$50	$151, buyers
H'kong S. Waterboat	$10	$17¾, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	$50	$285
China Fire	$20	$86, sellers
China Traders	$25	$56½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	$50	$302½, sellers
North China	£5	Tls. 82, ex div.
Union	$100	$700, sales & sel.
Yangtsze	$60	$160
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	$100	$127, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	$10	$13, buyers
Do. New	$10	
Kowloon Land & B.	$30	$39½, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 115
West Point Building	$50	$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	$490
Raubs	18/10	$4, sellers
Philippine Co.	$10	$9½, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	$100	$225, sellers
Luzon Sugar	$100	$27, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	$25	$21, sellers
Douglas Steamship	$50	$34½
H., Canton & M. ...	$15	$26½
Indo-China S.N. Co.	£10	$122, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	£1	22s., buyers
Do. Preference...	£10	£8. 10s.
Star Ferry	$10	$37½, sales
Do. New	$5	$28½, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	$50	$50
South China M. Post.	$25	$23, sales
Steam Laundry Co....	$5	$7
Do. New	$3	$5, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	$10	$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	$10	$11¼, sellers
Watkins	$10	$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	$10	$13½, buyers / $13, sales & buyers
United Asbestos...	$4	$9½
Do. Founders	$10	$180

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset and Co.'s Share Report for the week ending April 27th 1905, states:—The Easter Holidays interfered with the current business for the week, and beyond a good business in S.C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., at slightly advancing rates, we have little business to report. The T.T. Rate on London to-day is 2/7½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Buyers in Hongkong at $785; the latest London quotation is £80.10. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. The report of a fire on board of the s.s. *Yuenwo* caused a slight weakness in these. No details are yet known of the damage done, but we hear that she was fully insured outside of the Company, and so they can be no losers by this. The market has remained steady at Tls. 88 and 88½ for April; Tls. 89½ May; business done. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. The market opened with sales at Tls. 157½ cash. Tls. 156½ April, Tls. 160½ June and Tls. 162½ August. After the holidays cash shares were placed at Tls. 155 with sales for July at Tls. 160 and 161½; August Tls. 163½. At the close the market is stronger with cash buyers at Tls. 158. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have been placed for cash at Tls. 187½. Yangtsze Wharf and Godown Co. Shares are wanted. Mining.—The only business reported is in Weihaiwei Golds at $6.50. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 115. Industrial.—Cotton stocks are again quiet and no business is reported. Shanghai Ices have been placed at Tls. 25. Paper and Pulps at Tls. 150. Gases at Tls. 115. Langkats. Shares have been placed at Tls. 245 for July, and Tls. 255 October. The last business reported is for June at Tls. 246½. Sumatras. No business reported. Anglo-German Brewery share are wanted at quotations. Stores and Hotels.—Moutries at $54; Weeks at $19. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 72, and 68 ex. div., just paid. The Co.'s account for the year ending 31st March shows an amount available for appropriation of Tls. 76,937.01. Out of this the Co. has paid a dividend of Tls. 4, equal to 8 per cent., to shareholders; placed to Reserve Fund Tls. 45,000, raising this fund to Tls. 90,000; carried forward Tls. 59.01. It has been decided to issue immediately one new share in respect of every old share held by shareholders. The accounts are very satisfactory.

EXCHANGE.

	SATURDAY, 5th May.
ON LONDON.— Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 5/16
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10⅜
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 7/16
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10⅝
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10¾
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	234
Credits 4 months' sight	237½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	191
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	45⅝
Credits, 60 days' sight	46⅛
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	139¾
Bank, on demand	140
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	139¾
Bank, on demand	140
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71¾
Private, 30 days' sight	72⅛
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	91½
ON MANILA.—On demand	91
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	5⅛ p.c.pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	11 1/4
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1¾ p.c.pm.
ON SAIGON—On demand	1½ p.c.pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	62
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	$10 60
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	$55.30
BAR SILVER, per oz.	26½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—There is very little inquiry for tonnage from the Southern ports, but freights up North are firmer. From Saigon to this, 10 cents per picul last; to Philippines, 28 cents nom.; to Japan, 31 cents. Hence to Japan, 28 cents per picul has been paid; to Chefoo, 25 cents; to Newchwang, 45 cents. From Newchwang to Canton and Swatow, no demand. From Chinkiang to Canton, 30 cents Mex. per picul. Coal freights. From Moji to this, 2 steamers closed at $1.50; Karatzu to Swatow, $2.25; Kuchinotzu to Singapore, $1.75; Kuchinotzu to Hongay, $2.50. Hongay to Hongkong, $1.75 per ton.

The following are the settlements:—

S. P. Hitchcock—American ship, 2,086 tons, Manila and or Cebu to U. R. or U. S. A., private terms.

Sirocco—British steamer, 2,349 tons, Moji to Hongkong, $1.50 per ton.

Hermiston—British steamer, 2,839 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, $1.75 per ton.

Gibraltar—British steamer, 2,473 tons, Moji to Hongkong, $1.50 per ton.

Tjimahi Dutch steamer, 2,476 tons, Karatzu to Swatow, part cargo, $2.25 per ton.

Ras Elba—British steamer, 1,769 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongay, $2.50 per ton.

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.

Derwent—British steamer, 1,309 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Emma Luyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, monthly, 2 months, private terms.

Hermann Mensell—German steamer, 1,035 tons, monthly, 3 months, $6,500 per month.

Michael Jebsen—German steamer, 907 tons, monthly, 6 months, $8,250 per month.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April— ARRIAALS.

29, Quangnam, French str., from Saigon.
30, Ardova, British str., from Kutchinotzu
30, Benvenue, British str., from Moji.
30, Helene, German str., from Tourane.
30, Lisa, Swedish str., from Kobe.
30, Sperber, German cruiser, from Tsintau.
30, Travancore, British ship, from Cardiff.

May—

1, Armand Behic, Fr. str, from Yokohama.
1, B. A. Bevan, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
1, Ernest Simons Fr. str., from Marseilles.
1, Fri, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
1, Kalgan British str., from Swatow.
1, Kangra, British str., from Kohsichang.
1, Loongsang, British str. from Manila.
1, Pekin, British str, from Bombay.
1, Prinz Waldemar, German str., from Kobe
1, Progress, German str., from Swatow.
1, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
1, Volute, British str., from Palembang.
2, Andromeda, British cr., from Mirs Bay.
2, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str, from Bangkok
2, Benmohr, British str., from London.
2, Devawongse, German str. from Bangkok.
2, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
2, Hongwan I, British str, from Singapore
2, Kensington, British str., from Niigata.
2, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
2, Rupert K. Amr. tug boat. from Manila.
2, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
2, Serbia, German str., from Amoy.
2, Slavonia, German str., from Shanghai.
2, Woodford, British str., from Saigon.
3, Bonaventure, British cr., from Mirs Bay.
3, . F. Laeisz, German str., from Hamburg.
3, Emprs. of Japan, Brit. str., from Vcouver.
3, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
3, Heim, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
3, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
3, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
3, Lothian, British str., from Chingwantao.
3, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
3, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
3, Waihora, British str., from Singapore.
3, Wik, German str., from Newport.
4, Empire, British str., from Kobe.
4, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
4, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
4, Hogue, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
4, Kintuck, British str, from Liverpool.
4, Lyra American str., from Shanghai.
4, Malta, British str., from Bombay.
4, Venus, American str, from Iloilo.

April— DEPARTURES

29, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
29, Elita Nossack, German str., for Tsintau
29, Germania, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
29, Lydia, German str., for Shanghai.
29, M. Rickmers, German str., for Singapore.
29, Perlak, Dutch str., for Palembang.
29, Petchaburi, German str., for Swatow.
29, Rajput, British str., for Calcutta.
29, Socotra, British str., for Shanghai.
29, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
29, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
30, Amara, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Bantu, British str., for Nagasaki.
30, Chowfa, German str., for Hoihow.
30, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
30, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
30, Proteus, German str., for Swatow.
30, Telena, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Tolv, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.

May—

1, Andromeda, British cruiser. for Mirs Bay.
1, Chowtai, German str., for Swatow.
1, Kangra, British str., for Kure.
1, Norman Isles, Norwegian str., for Java.
1, Stettin, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Tjimah, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
1, Tydeus, British str., for London.
2, Armand Behic, French str., for Europe.
2, Bogstad, Norwegian str., for Canton.
2, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
2, Deucalion, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Ernest Simons, Fr. str, for Shanghai.
2, Holstein, German str, for Haiphong.
2, Numantia, German str., for Moji.
2, Quangnam, French str., for Shanghai.
2, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Melbourne.
2, Loongmoon, German str., for Tamsui.
2, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
2, Tean, British str., for Manila.
3, Arracoon Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
3, Ardova, British str., for Moji.
3, B. Bjornson, Norwegian str., for Anping.
3, Caffilla, British str., for Sasebo.
3, EmmaLuyken, German str., for Swatow.
3, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
3, Hudson, British str., for New York.
3, Kalgan, British str., for Shanghai.
3, Kansu, British str., for Chefoo.
3, Pekin, British str., for Shanghai.
3, Progress, German str., for Swatow.
3, Serbia, German str., for Singapore.
3, Trieste, Austrian str., for Trieste.
3, Waishing, British str., for Swatow
3, Woodford, British str., for Yokohama.
3, Woosung British str., for Shanghai.
4, Bonaventure, British cr. for Mirs Bay.
4, Fri, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
4, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
4, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
4, Isleworth, British str., for Saigon.
4, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
4, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
4, Lothian, British str., for Singapore.
4, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
4, Malta, British str., for Shanghai.
4, Quinta, German str., for Saigon.

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Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE for the Concerned, at 14, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria Hongkong.
London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.